

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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PASS TO DR. EHRLICH/DHEW/OIH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OSCI TBIO PL
SUBJ: THIRD JOINT COMMISSION ON HEALTH, AND PROPOSED U.S. VISIT
 OF MINISTER MARIAN SLIWINSKI, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

1. ON JANUARY 28 THE SCIATT MET WITH JAN SIEKLUCKI, THE POLISH CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON HEALTH. SIEKLUCKI REFERRED TO TALKS WITH DR. ROBERT FISCHER IN WARSAW LAST DECEMBER CONCERNING A U.S. VISIT OF HEALTH MINISTER MARIAN SLIWINSKI. SIEKLUCKI SAID HE HOPED THE NEW DHEW SECRETARY WOULD EXTEND AN EARLY INVITATION TO SLIWINSKI FOR A VISIT WHICH WAS AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE DURING THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.

2. CHARGED WITH FIRING UP SLIWINSKI'S FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR 1977, SIEKLUCKI WOULD LIKE TO COMBINE THE MINISTER'S TRIP TO THE U.S. WITH THE MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21. SLIWINSKI'S NEAR-TERM SCHEDULE WILL BE FILLED WITH A FEBRUARY TRIP TO MOROCCO AND THE HOSTING OF THE CANADIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH IN POLAND IN APRIL. BEFORE HE ACKNOWLEDGES EHRLICH'S CALL FOR A MEETING, SIEKLUCKI NEEDS TO KNOW ASAP DHEW'S THOUGHTS ON A POSSIBLE CABINET-LEVEL MEETING.

3. IF HE MEETS WITH SECRETARY CALIFANO, SLIWINSKI WILL EXTEND AN INVITATION TO VISIT POLAND IN 1978. SIEKLUCKI IMPLIED THAT SUCH
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A VISIT WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE POLISH EFFORTS TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE III OF THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN KRAKOW, WHICH SECRETARY CALIFANO WOULD VISIT. SIEKLUCKI ALSO CONVEYED THE MINISTER'S HOPE THAT AN EARLY EXCHANGE OF MINISTERIAL VISITS WOULD HELP ESTABLISH AN AMICABLE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO MEN. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MARCH 21 DATE FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IS NOT CONTINGENT ON AN INVITATION FOR SLI-

WINSKI'S VISIT, THE POLES SEE A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN COMBINING THE TWO EVENTS, SINCE THE SAME PERSONS (SIEKLUCKI, WOJTACZAK, AND RETKOWSKA) WOULD COMPRISE A MINISTERIAL DELEGATION. END COMMENT.

4. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMAL FEELERS FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE FOR A POSSIBLE VISIT BY MFT MINISTER OLSZEWSKI IN 1977. WE WILL REPORT THIS BY SEPTTEL. SLIWINSKI'S BID SHOULD THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE TRIPS BY BOTH OLSZEWSKI AND PYKA.
BROWN

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